



Mental Health Update May 4, 2007

DMH Proposal to SAMHSA for Developing Alternatives to Restraint and Seclusion

The Division of Mental Health will submit a federal grant proposal to SAMHSA outlining a process for creating alternatives to the use of seclusion and restraint at VSH and the Brattleboro Retreat. The initiatives envisioned in the grant will augment and build upon efforts to date at both institutions. The proposed initiative will provide a strong focus on prevention strategies and on creating system changes that are expected to result in a reduction of seclusion and restraint.

To review a synopsis of the draft proposal, click on

<http://healthvermont.gov/mh/documents/SAMHSAraftproposal.pdf>

Stakeholder Community Provides Feedback

At a well-attended forum to solicit input about the SAMHSA proposal from interested parties this week, the Division received a lot of valuable input from mental health consumers and their family members, protective services, legal advocacy, and a provider organization. Many themes emerged from the comments offered by forum attendees including the following:

- Commit to culture change at each institution
- Develop leadership and staff to implement alternatives to seclusion and restraint
- Adapt the physical environment in ways that can assist in reaching these goals
- Incorporate peers and family members in plans to implement alternatives
- Monitor progress, including use of a stakeholder steering committee at VSH and the Retreat

The themes have been organized into key categories, will inform the development of the proposal and will be included in it to demonstrate the perspectives and suggestions of stakeholders. To read the list of these themes, click on

<http://healthvermont.gov/mh/documents/EmergingThemes.pdf> Additional comments may be submitted to Nick Nichols, VDH/Division of Mental Health, nnichols@vdh.state.vt.us or 802-652-2000 no later than Wednesday, May 9, 2007.

FUTURES PROJECT

No Futures update this week

VISI

No VISI update this week

VERMONT STATE HOSPITAL CENSUS

The Vermont State Hospital Census was 51 as of midnight Wednesday night. The average census for the past 45 days was 51.